

LOCATION: Damascus
DATE: 04 April, 2013
CHAIR: Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS: DRC, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP

Situation Update

Border Crossings

- **Jordan-Syria:** At present, no vehicle movement is occurring in or out of the Jordan-Syria Border Crossing 'Jaber/Naseeb'.
- The **Lebanon-Syria** Border Crossing 'Al-Masnaa' is operational. Crossing is fairly uncomplicated, however customs processing can be slow. Coordination with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) is strongly recommended to accelerate the process.

Common Services Update (Transport and Storage)

Transport

- The Logistics Cluster continues to provide free transport of humanitarian relief items inside Syria. Free overland transport (not inclusive of custom clearance) is also offered from Lebanon/Jordan to Syria.

Storage

- The Logistics Cluster will continue to provide **free temporary storage** services to all humanitarian organisations responding to the Syrian crisis. WFP has allotted storage spaces to the humanitarian community inside Syria, specifically in rural Damascus, Safita, Lattakia, Qamshli and regionally in Irbid.
- After a security assessment conducted by WFP, it has been decided that Logistics Cluster will augment his warehouse space in Tartous in order to satisfy the increasing demand from the humanitarian community.

Inter-Agency Convoy

- A Joint Humanitarian Convoy to Aleppo is planned for 13 April 2013. The Logistics Cluster, supported by WFP, will provide trucks for delivering the items to the destination. Organizations who are interested in joining future convoys shall follow the below procedures:
 - send the Service Request Form (SRF) to syria.cargo@logcluster.org
 - ensure that actual cargo matches the items and quantities mentioned in the SRF
 - ensure that items are received at the Logistics Cluster warehouse at least one day before the loading process starts.

Organizations' Update

- UNCHR is facing difficulties in obtaining the required exemption letters from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) because of the Ministry's new requirements to have the implementing partners' signature on the distribution plans.
- UNICEF is looking into shipping its items from Jordan to Syria.

RITA Tracking System

- The Logistics Cluster cargo tracking focal point introduced the Relief Item Tracking Application (RITA) which has been implemented by the Logistics Cluster in order to improve tracking and to support common transport and storage services for partners. This simple, web based system allows customers to access online to their current cargo status and provides the Logistics Cluster with the ability to monitor performance to date.

The new system has impacted on the service request procedures and changes are listed below:

1. Submission of the service request form using the new SRF form. The SRF form is available at: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/syr12a>
2. To ensure customers regularly submit accurate SRFs, Logistics Cluster cargo trackers will begin placing incomplete or inaccurate requests “on-hold” until the submitting customer provides the correct information.
3. Upon acceptance of the SRF, a PDF consignment report is generated by the Logistics Cluster and sent to the customer indicating the initial details of the consignment and confirmation of its acceptance.
4. The releasing of items in storage: No SRFs are needed to request the releasing of items in storage; an email from an authorized focal point of the agency will be accepted for request for release. Customers must ensure the email contains the following information:
 - **Consignment Number**
 - **Number of items to be released by line item**
 - **Details of persons or transporter authorized to pick up the items**
 - **The date of pick-up.**

*The next Logistics Cluster meeting will be held
In Damascus, after two weeks.
Participants will be informed once the date and time is confirmed*

Contacts:

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